

IN THE CLAIMS:

2. (Amended) An adjustable joint unit as claimed in claim [1] 11, wherein [the] said crimped portion [has] further comprises:

a first step portion[, which is formed] disposed along [the] said inner rim of [the] said mounting opening portion of [the] said socket portion, said first step portion comprising [by crimping so as to extend inward in] a flange-like shape and extending toward said closing member, and

a second step portion disposed [which is formed] along [the] an edge of [the] said first step portion [by crimping so as to extend inward in] , said second step portion comprising a flange-like shape and extending toward said closing member.

4. (Amended) A method of producing an adjustable joint unit comprising steps of:

forming an arm by pressing a generally plate-shaped arm base member said arm comprising a thickness, so as to form a generally cylindrical socket portion having an axis extending in the same direction as [the] said thickness of [the] said arm and open at both ends, [with] said socket portion comprising an aperture portion at [the] a protruding end and a mounting opening portion at [the] a base end of [the] said socket portion;

inserting a ball head portion of a ball stud [from] through said mounting opening portion into [the] said socket portion of [the] said arm [so that the ball head portion is contained in the socket portion, with] ;

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disposing a bearing seat between [the] said ball head portion and [the] said socket portion;

fitting a closing member [in] into said mounting opening portion of [the] said socket portion [so as] to close off said mounting opening portion; and

forming a crimped portion adapted to receive and hold [the] an outer rim of said closing member by crimping [the] an inner rim of said mounting opening portion [so that the] , said crimped portion extends inward in a flange-like shape [consisting] and comprises [of] steps having different thicknesses, [with the] an inner step thinner than [the] an outer step.

5. (Amended) A method of producing an adjustable joint unit as claimed in claim 4, [wherein the crimping portion is formed by] further comprising the steps:

forming the crimped portion by forming a first step portion[, which extends] along said inner rim, said first step portion extending inward like a flange, [along the inner rim of the mounting opening portion of the socket portion], and [then]

crimping [the] an edge of [the] said first step portion so as to form a second step portion extending inward like a flange [so that the], said crimped portion [consists] comprises [of] one or more steps having different thicknesses, [with the] wherein said inner step being thinner than [the] said outer step.

7. (Amended) An adjustable joint unit as described in claim [1] 11, wherein[:]

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said crimped portion is formed by a crimping process, comprising [which is conducted by] rolling rotatable rollers along said inner rim of said mounting opening portion of said socket portion.

8. (Amended) An adjustable joint unit as described in claim 2, wherein[:]

said crimped portion is formed by a crimping process, [which is conducted by] comprising rolling rotatable rollers along said inner rim of said mounting opening portion of said socket portion.

9. (Amended) A method of producing an adjustable joint unit as described in claim 4, [wherein] further comprising the steps:

forming said crimping portion [is formed] by a crimping process, [that calls for] said crimping process comprising the steps:

rolling rotatable rollers along said inner rim of said mounting opening portion of said socket portion.

10. (Amended) A method of producing an adjustable joint unit as described in claim 5, [wherein] further comprising the steps:

forming said crimping portion [is formed] by a crimping process, said crimping process comprising the steps:

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[that calls for] rolling rotatable rollers along said inner rim of said mounting opening portion of said socket portion

11. (New) An adjustable joint unit comprising:

a ball stud, comprising:

a stud portion; and

a ball head portion opposite said stud portion;

a bearing seat slidably containing said ball head portion, comprising:

an insertion hole adapted to receive said stud portion;

a generally plate-shaped arm having a thickness, comprising:

a generally cylindrical socket portion being open at both ends and containing said bearing seat, comprising:

a protruding end;

a base end opposite said protruding end;

an axis extending in the direction of said thickness of said arm;

an aperture portion disposed at said protruding end and allowing said stud portion to protrude therethrough;

a mounting opening portion disposed at said base end and comprising an inner rim; and

a crimped portion disposed along said inner rim comprising:

a flange-like shape;

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an outer step; and

an inner step thinner than said outer step; and

a closing member adapted to close said mounting opening portion and applying a preliminary load to said ball head portion, comprising an outer rim, wherein said inner rim receives and holds said outer rim of said closing member.

